

What is claimed is:

1. An information providing system comprising:

a server;

5 a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with
the server; and

a display device for receiving information sent by the server,

wherein the server comprises:

a database;

10 means for receiving a search signal sent from the portable information
equipment;

means for receiving a signal relating to entity identification of the portable
information equipment and of the display device;

15 means for conducting searches on the database based on the search
signal;

means for sending information obtained by the search to the display device;

and

means for charging an information provision fee to the portable information
equipment.

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2. An information providing system comprising:

a server;

a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with
the server; and

25 a display device for receiving information sent by the server,

wherein the display device has means for generating a sound signal capable of identifying the entity,

wherein the portable information equipment has means for hearing the sound signal and sending the sound signal to the server, and

5 wherein the server has means for identifying the display device through the sound signal sent from the portable information equipment.

3. An information providing system comprising:

a server;

10 a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with the server; and

a display device for receiving information sent by the server,

15 wherein the display device has means for storing the information sent from the server.

4. An information providing system comprising:

a server;

a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with the server; and

20 a display device for receiving information sent from the server,

wherein the display device has means for sensing a search signal and electromagnetic waves other than the search signal, which are sent by the portable information equipment.

25 5. An information providing system comprising:

a server having a database;
a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with
the server; and
a display device for receiving information sent by the server,
5 wherein the portable information equipment sends a search signal to the
server,
wherein the server conducts a search on the database based on the search
signal and sends information obtained by the search to the display device, and
wherein the display device displays the information thereon.

10 6. An information providing system comprising:

a first server for obtaining information from a database managed by a second
server;

a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with
15 the first server; and

a display device for receiving information from the first server,

wherein the portable information equipment sends a search signal to the first
server,

wherein the first server has means for communicating with the second
20 server; sends the search signal to the second server and searches the database managed
by the second server based on the search signal; receives information obtained by the
search; and sends the information to the display device, and

wherein the display device displays the information thereon.

25 7. An information providing method comprising the steps of:

sending, by a portable information equipment, entity identification information of a display device and the portable information equipment itself to a server;

verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display
5 device and the portable information equipment;

conducting, by the server, a search on a database and sends information obtained by the search to the display device;

displaying, by the display device, the information sent from the server thereon; and

10 verifying, by the server, that the information is displayed on the display device and charging to the portable information equipment.

8. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

adjusting search signals and conducting searches on the database upon
15 receiving the search signals from the plurality of portable information equipment;

sequentially sending, by the server, a plurality of information obtained by the search to the display device; and

displaying, by the display device, the plurality of different information on the display portion which is divided into a plurality of regions, or displaying the
20 plurality of different information on the display portion while overlapping with each other.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein the display device is disposed at a place that can be seen by an unspecified number of the general public.

10. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

communicating, by the portable information equipment and the display device, a signal capable of identifying the entity; and

5 sending, by the portable information equipment, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment itself to the server or the first server.

11. A method according to claim 7, further comprising a step of:

10 receiving, by the display device, the information sent from the server or the first server through a line.

12. A method according to claim 7, further comprising a step of:

15 receiving, by the display device, information sent from the server or the first server via a satellite.

13. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

sending, by the server or the first server, numeric or letter or character information to the display device;

displaying, by the display device, the information thereon;

20 sending, by the portable information equipment, the numeral or the letter or character displayed on the display device to the server or the first server; and

verifying, by the server or the first server, that the portable information equipment is disposed at a visible position.

25 14. A method according to claim 7, further comprising a step of:

displaying, by the display device, information selected from information delivered by a news agency, a newspaper publishing company or a broadcasting station.

5 15. A method according to claim 14, further comprising a step of:

displaying, by the display device, on the same screen the delivered information and the information obtained by the search on the database, for a programmed period of time or at a time when the server performs an operation.

10 16. An information providing method comprising the steps of:

11 sending, by a portable information equipment, an identification signal of a display device and the portable information equipment itself to a server;

12 verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment;

13 15 sending, by the server, information for displaying a menu screen for conducting a search to the display device;

14 sending, by the portable information equipment, a search signal;

15 conducting, by the server, a search on a database based on the search signal;

16 20 sending, by the server, information obtained by the search to the display device; and

17 verifying, by the server, that the information was displayed on the display device, and requesting a communication line manager an accounting to the portable information equipment.

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17. A method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

adjusting search signals and conducting searches on the database upon receiving the search signals from the plurality of portable information equipment;

sequentially sending, by the server, a plurality of information obtained by the search to the display device; and

displaying, by the display device, the plurality of different information on the display portion which is divided into a plurality of regions, or displaying the plurality of different information on the display portion while overlapping with each other.

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein the display device is disposed at a place that can be seen by an unspecified number of the general public.

19. A method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

communicating, by the portable information equipment and the display device, a signal capable of identifying the entity; and

sending, by the portable information equipment, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment itself to the server or the first server.

20. A method according to claim 16, further comprising a step of:

receiving, by the display device, the information sent from the server or the first server through a line.

21. A method according to claim 16, further comprising a step of:

receiving, by the display device, information sent from the server or the first server via a satellite.

22. A method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

5 sending, by the server or the first server, numeric or letter or character information to the display device;

 displaying, by the display device, the information thereon;

 sending, by the portable information equipment, the numeral or the letter or character displayed on the display device to the server or the first server; and

10 verifying, by the server or the first server, that the portable information equipment is disposed at a visible position.

23. A method according to claim 16, further comprising a step of:

 displaying, by the display device, information selected from information
15 delivered by a news agency, a newspaper publishing company or a broadcasting station.

24. A method according to claim 23, further comprising a step of:

 displaying, by the display device, on the same screen the delivered
20 information and the information obtained by the search on the database, for a programmed period of time or at a time when the server performs an operation.

25. An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

 sending, by a portable information equipment, an identification signal of a
25 display device and the portable information equipment itself to a server;

verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment;

sending, by the portable information equipment, a search signal to a first server;

5 communicating, by the first server, with a second server, sending the search signal to the second server, and conducting a search on a database managed by the second server based on the search signal, receiving information obtained by the search, and sending the information to the display device; and

displaying, by the display device, the information thereon.

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26. A method according to claim 25, wherein the display device is disposed at a place that can be seen by an unspecified number of the general public.

27. A method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

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communicating, by the portable information equipment and the display device, a signal capable of identifying the entity; and

sending, by the portable information equipment, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment itself to the server or the first server.

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28. A method according to claim 25, further comprising a step of:

receiving, by the display device, the information sent from the server or the first server through a line.

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29. A method according to claim 25, further comprising a step of:

receiving, by the display device, information sent from the server or the first server via a satellite.

30. A method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

5 sending, by the server or the first server, numeric or letter or character information to the display device;

 displaying, by the display device, the information thereon;

 sending, by the portable information equipment, the numeral or the letter or character displayed on the display device to the server or the first server; and

10 verifying, by the server or the first server, that the portable information equipment is disposed at a visible position.

31. A method according to claim 25, further comprising a step of:

 displaying, by the display device, information selected from information
15 delivered by a news agency, a newspaper publishing company or a broadcasting station.

32. A method according to claim 31, further comprising a step of:

 displaying, by the display device, on the same screen the delivered
20 information and the information obtained by the search on the database, for a programmed period of time or at a time when the server performs an operation.

33. An information providing method comprising the step of:

 sending, by a server, a commercial advertisement or a public service
25 announcement stored in a database to a display device as information and displaying

it thereon when the server does not receive a search signal from the portable information equipment.

34. An information providing method comprising a step of:

5 storing, by a server, information for advertisement from a sponsor in a database;

sending the information to a display device, for providing as information the advertisement to an unspecified number of the general public; and

10 charging to the sponsor for using the information providing method as an advertising medium.

35. An information providing method comprising a step of:

15 sending, by a portable information equipment, a search signal to a server;
conducting, by the server, a search on a database based on the search signal;
sending information obtained by the search to a display device; and
displaying, by the display device, the information thereon,

wherein the portable information equipment is capable of two-way communication with the server.